

## KDES recognizes 25 'honorees'

Miss Deaf America 1995 Jennifer Yost told the 25 high school-bound students who were being honored June 9 for successfully completing their studies at Kendall Demonstration Elementary School that they were embarking on one of the most important steps in their academic career—high school.

Yost was the featured speaker at the Recognition Day ceremony for graduating students—which KDES refers to as "honorees"—held June 9 in the Model Secondary School for the Deaf's Theatre Malz.

"In high school you can find what you're interested in," said Yost. "You have the support of faculty, staff, and dorm counselors—utilize it! High school is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; make the best of it."

Yost said that she, too, had once been a KDES student. But she wasn't able to complete her studies at the school and, therefore, missed out on the cheers and praise of friends and family that make KDES' annual ceremony a special event.

"I transferred to a mainstream school for the seventh and eighth grades, and then transferred back to MSSD for high school," said Yost. "And my eighth grade didn't have a graduation [ceremony]. So, it's good that you are being recognized for your accomplishments."

Two graduating students, Sam Mather and Shellea Brown, addressed their classmates and supporters.

Mather, KDES Student Council president, praised KDES teachers and teachers aides who, he said, "taught us what the meaning of love is." He added, "We will always look at Kendall as our home."

Brown thanked the people that make up the KDES community for their support over the years. "As the class of '95 goes on to be role models to others, we have role models we will look to for the rest of our lives."

Before the students received their diplomas from KDES Principal Nancy Rarus and a welcome to high school

*continued on page 2*



KDES' 25 honorees greet well-wishers at a reception after receiving their diplomas.

## 'On the Green' to be printed biweekly

Beginning this month, look for *On the Green* in your mailbox every two weeks. In addition, those who have VAX accounts can still read the on-line version of *On the Green* every day by typing *gopher* at the \$ prompt.

When *On the Green* went on-line in March, we began printing a four-page version of the publication once a month.

The decision to offer a two-page printed *On the Green* biweekly was the result of a reader survey conducted in April. While many respondents indicated that they find the on-line version of the newspaper useful and more timely than the printed version, most said that they miss having a printed publication to read at their leisure.

Also, many readers who do not

have VAX accounts said that they missed the paper version because no one in their department is regularly printing out the on-line *On the Green*.

Most of the articles that now appear in the printed *On the Green* will also be on-line, although in an abbreviated form.

The Announcements, Classified Ads, and Among Ourselves columns will appear in print and on-line. Job Openings will appear in print, and a more complete listing of campus job listings can be found on the *gopher* directory under the heading "Employment Opportunities and Personnel News." In the case of announcements, items in print will often not be as comprehensive as the on-line version, due to space limitations.



Graduates raise their hands in celebration after the MSSD Commencement Ceremony June 3.

## Frelich addresses MSSD's Class of '95

Everything is within your reach, particularly if you have the grit to overcome opposition.

That was the message Tony Award-winning deaf actor Phyllis Frelich imparted to 69 graduating seniors at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf's 25th Commencement exercises in the University's Field House June 3.

"I understand that the odds are against me," Frelich told the graduates. "I'm deaf, I'm a woman, and I'm not young any more. But my experience tells me that nothing speaks louder than work. That will be true no matter what field you go into. You will be judged by what you do, not what you say. If we have to work harder than others to be successful, then that's the way it is—and let's get started."

"Your future starts today," Frelich told the graduates. "Follow your heart. No matter what, you'll always be happy for that. Find what you love, do what you love, love what you do, and everything will fall into place."

Frelich shared her experiences growing up in a world before closed captioning, TTYs, and a wide availability of sign language interpreters. Even her deaf teachers at the North

Dakota School for the Deaf discouraged the students from signing in public. "They never thought about what they were doing to our self-image," she said.

When Frelich graduated from high school in 1962, Gallaudet was the only choice for college-bound deaf students. But theater was not offered as a major at the University at that time because there were no jobs for deaf people in the field, she said. She majored in library science on the advice of friends who thought it the best major for a deaf woman because she could follow her deaf husband anywhere in the United States and become a school librarian.

"I got the degree, but I didn't have a husband to follow," Frelich said. She met her husband when she became a founding member of the National Theatre of the Deaf.

Frelich also shared her experiences meeting playwright Mark Medoff, who wrote *Children of a Lesser God* with Frelich in mind for the part of Sarah. The play was on Broadway for two years, and her role brought Frelich the Tony Award in 1980.

*continued on page 2*

## Fernandes named Pre-College VP

Dr. Jane Kelleher Fernandes, director of Hawaii's Statewide Center for Students with Hearing and Visual Impairments, has been named vice president for Gallaudet's Pre-College National Mission Programs. She will begin her appointment on August 14.

The announcement that Fernandes, one of five candidates interviewed June 14 to 21, had been chosen for the post was made in a June 29 letter to the campus community from Gallaudet President I. King Jordan.

For more details, read on-line *On the Green*, accessible by typing *gopher* at the \$ prompt after logging onto the VAX.



Phyllis Frelich, MSSD's Commencement speaker, urges graduates to follow their hearts.



## Adaptive technology is teleconference topic

Computers and other implements of the age of technology are helping people with disabilities become more independent, said panelists at a May 18 national teleconference, "Liberating People with Disabilities Through Adaptive Technologies."

The teleconference discussed adaptive technology, particularly computers and devices enabling people with various disabilities to use computers; compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; and the future of adaptive technology.

One recurring point made by panelists was that people with disabilities should not wait complacently for new products to hit the market in the hope that they will be suitable for them. Rather, they should take steps to ensure that engineers and technicians keep their needs in mind while developing a product.

Panelists demonstrated a variety of technologies that enable people who have various physical disabilities and people with visual impairments to use computers. The technologies range from reconfigured keyboards for use with one hand or the tongue, to braille displays and voice synthesizers.

Such adaptive devices need to be implemented where they are needed, the panelists said. Problems still exist with employers who are reluctant to purchase what they may perceive as expensive accommodations, but the Americans with Disabilities Act, panelists said, sends a clear message that employers cannot discriminate.

Companies working on computers and other technologies need to design new products with disabled people in mind, said the teleconference panelists. Otherwise, people with disabilities may have to wait years for equal access—and by the time they have it, the technology could be obsolete.

"Disabled people are a market," said panelist Deborah Kaplan, director of the Division of Technology Policy at the World Institute on Disability in Oakland, Calif. "If you develop accessible technology, you've expanded the market—not shrunk it."

Following the teleconference, Dr. Harvey Goodstein, Gallaudet professor of mathematics, moderated a panel

that addressed the issue of future technology being accessible to people with disabilities. The panel discussion took place at Peikoff Alumni House, Gallaudet's downlink site for the teleconference.

Panelists Dr. Cynthia King, an associate professor in the University's Department of Education Foundation and Research; Jenifer Simpson, an attorney and a policy associate with the Cerebral Palsy Association; and Alfred Sonnenstrahl, executive director of Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc.; discussed the coming information superhighway that will link phone lines, cable television, and computers into a supernetwork to improve communication, and the steps that the disability community must take to see that it is not bypassed.

Legislation is one path, the panelists agreed, but advocates are finding they must repeatedly remind legislators that people with disabilities include those with sensory disabilities—not just those who use wheelchairs. Another approach is to contact companies directly to educate them about the needs of consumers who have disabilities, panelists said. Some advocates, for instance, are working with Microsoft to educate them about the needs of deaf consumers.

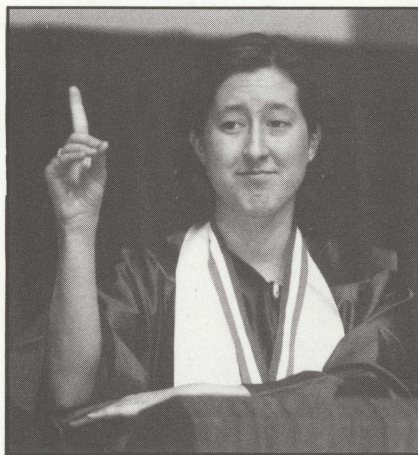
Before the teleconference, Gallaudet staff members presented discussions entitled "Access to the Information Highway" and "Multimedia Captioning."

Lloyd Ballinger, manager of Networks and Communications; Robert Herbold, director of Academic Computing; and Peter Un, junior applications programmer in Computer Systems Engineering, presented "Access to the Information Highway." Un demonstrated Netscape, a software that offers multimedia access to the Internet. With Netscape, users around the world can use their personal computers to access items as diverse as a map of the Gallaudet campus to video clips of the 1995 America's Cup sailing competition.

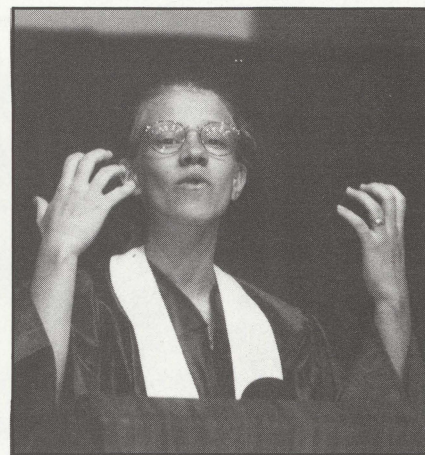
In "Multimedia Captioning," King gave examples of CD-ROM programs that are not accessible to deaf or blind people. Pictures are sometimes presented without an audio description, and audio explanations accompanying pictures often are presented without captions, she said. King emphasized the importance of people with different disabilities working together to address multimedia accessibility issues. "Anything auditory needs a visual. Anything visual needs audio," she said.

King also gave an example of technology that permits instructors to produce their own captions for multimedia in the classroom. Captions can be tied into a homemade glossary so students can look up words in the captions they do not understand, she said.

The teleconference was produced by the Rochester Institute of Technology and sponsored by the American Association for Higher Education's Project Equal Access to Software and Information. The Gallaudet site was sponsored by the National Association of the Deaf, Gallaudet's Technology Assessment Program, the Department of Television, Photography, and Educational Technology, and Distance Education Programs at the Gallaudet University Conference Center. Distance Education also developed and coordinated the afternoon events at Gallaudet.



Melissa Whalen (left) and Gloria Fuechtmann address MSSD's Class of '95.



## MSSD graduates 69 seniors June 3

*continued from page 1*

Class valedictorian Melissa Whalen and class salutatorian Gloria Fuechtmann also addressed the graduating class.

Whalen shared her experiences at MSSD, including how being a member of MSSD's Road Show helped her appreciate the supportive atmosphere of MSSD. In her travels with the Road Show, Whalen said she had the opportunity to visit other schools and programs for deaf students. Many teachers

barely signed, she said, and many also a negative attitude about deafness. "Here, the attitude is, 'Of course deaf people can succeed.'"

Fuechtmann compared completing high school to winning a race. "One difference between a race and high school is that when a race is finished, it ends," Fuechtmann said. "Ours is not the end—ours is the beginning. We've worked hard to get here. Where we'll go, we don't know. But we each have new beginnings, new goals, new hope, and new ribbons to race for."

MSSD recognized students who graduated with high grade point averages. Six Gold Eagles—Carl Devendorf, Fuechtmann, Cara McLellan, Maria Petrova, Marie Shook, and Whalen—earned GPAs of 3.75 or above. Fifteen Silver Eagles earned GPAs between 3.25 and 3.74, and two Bronze Eagles earned GPAs between 3.0 and 3.24.

Mervin Primeaux received the Peter B. Hobbs Memorial Award for school spirit and academic work.

Four graduates—Fuechtmann, Brein McNamara, Primeaux, and Erin Sanders-Sigmon—received scholarships to Gallaudet University.

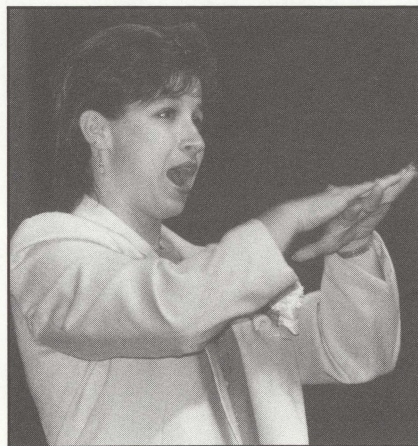
## KDES presents diplomas, awards

*continued from page 1*

by MSSD's interim principal Vivian Rice, some of them received awards.

Kendall Home-School Organization awards went to Tamara Suiter, Shellea Brown, Earl Allen, and Patti Martin. The Elizabeth Jackson Award, given in the memory of Jackson, who died in 1990 after 19 years of service to KDES—most of them as dining room supervisor—went to Kimberly Ray. The Malcolm Norwood award, given in memory of Norwood, an outstanding leader in the deaf community, went to Sean Moore. The Linwood Smith award, given in memory of Smith, a black deaf leader and talented writer who died in 1982, went to Elisa Abenchuchan. The Kendall Cup, the school's top award, went to Abenchuchan, Mather, and Nicole Mack.

The program ended, as it does every year, with the popular performance of the song "Kendall School Days," composed by KDES Special Opportunities Program supervisor Don Mahoney. Accompanied by student dancers, Mahoney strummed his guitar and sang the tune about students coming of age at KDES. During the presentation, photos of each graduating student—from birth to the present—were projected onto a screen above the performers.



Miss Deaf America '95 Jennifer Yost praises honorees at KDES Recognition Day.

## Classified Ads

**Classified ads** are published in the printed and on-line versions of *On the Green* for Gallaudet faculty and staff. Written ads must be submitted in person or by mail to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code and whether the number is voice or TTY. In compliance with the Education of the Deaf Act of 1992, as amended, payment of \$1 per ad per publication—for both printed and on-line versions—must accompany each ad. The deadline for submitting ads is Friday, three days before the on-line version and 10 days before the printed version. Ads received June 26-July 7 will be printed July 17. Readers should be aware that because on-line ads appear weekly and printed ads are published every two weeks, items that are first advertised on-line may no longer be available by the time they appear in print.

**FOR RENT:** Large room in Beltsville, Md., to female nonsmoker; large walk-in closets, private BA, w/w carpeting, swimming pool, quiet, clean neighborhood, walking distance to bus, 20-25 min. from Gallaudet; \$350/mo., incl. all util., or \$250/mo. and occasional babysitting (mainly late eves.). Call Tonya eves. (301) 937-9117 (V) or days x4449, or e-mail TLLANDIS.

**FOR SALE:** Large Victorian house, 3 blocks from Gallaudet; 2 inlaw suites, ea. w/2 BR, living room, dining room, enclosed porch, and parking; easy conversion to 5-BR house, needs TLC; \$79,900. Call Matt White, (202) 547-3525.

**FOR SALE:** Computer, 286, IBM compatible; WP 5.1, Windows 3.0, several games; ideal for child. Call x5698 or e-mail REG\_SIPES.

**FOR SALE:** New Singer sewing machine, \$300; new sewing table, \$125. Call Marjean Ellis at x5247 or e-mail MAELLIS.



Published biweekly for the staff and faculty of Gallaudet University by the Department of Publications and Production.

### Editor

Todd Byrd

### Editorial Staff

Lynne McConnell  
Andrea Shettle

### Photography Staff

Chun Louie  
Joan Schlub

### Typesetting

Thomas Corcoran



Gallaudet University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, hearing status, disability, covered veteran status, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, place of business or residence, pregnancy, childbirth, or any other unlawful basis.